

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 00122 081126Z

42

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 OMB-01 CU-04 NIC-01 DRC-01 /113 W

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R 080*58Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1916

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT KS

SUBJ: BACKGROUND TO JAN 8 EMERGENCY MEASURES

1. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY ACTIVITY PRIOR TO JAN 8 ANNOUNCEMENT OF EMERGENCY MEASURES (SEPTELS) BY PRESIDENT PARK. RADIO JAN 8 REPORTED MEETING MORNING JAN 7 BETWEEN PRIME MINISTER AND HOME, JUSTICE, EDUCATION, PUBLIC INFORMATION MINISTERS; DIRECTOR ROK/CIA; AND PRESIDENTIAL SECRETARY FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS YU HUOK-IN. PRIME MINISTER THEN MET WITH PRESIDENT PARK, FOLLOWING WHICH HE CONFERRED WITH CABINET, EXCLUSIVE OF ECONOMIC MINISTERS, UNTIL LATE EVENING JAN 7. NOON RADIO REPORTED JAN 8 THAT PRIME MINISTER HAD CANCELLED A TRIP TO PUSAN AND THAT THE STATE COUNCIL WOULD MEET AT 1500 ON AN "IMPORTANT AFFAIR."

2. IN ANOTHER RELATED DEVELOPEMENT PRIOR TO THE ANNOUNCEMENT, NDP POLITICAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MORNING JAN 8 UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED RESOLUTION PLEDGING NDP TO DO ITS UTMOST TO REVISE PRESENT CONSTITUTION. STATEMENT SAID PARTY HAD

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PAGE 02 SEOUL 00122 081126Z

WORKED IN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY TO ACHIEVE A "MORE MILD SOLUTION" AND TO AVOID A CLASH WITH GOVERNMENT, BUT PRIME M*INISTER AND PRESIDENT HAVE SHOWN "LITTLE RESPONSE". PARTY WILL THEREFORE LEAD PEOPLE IN FIGHT TO RESTORE DEMOCRACY.

3. JAN 8 PRESS REPORTS STUDENT SUPPORT FOR CONSTITUTIONAL SIGNATURE CAMPAIGN. IN KWANGJU 1000 STUDENTS OF CHONNAM UNIVERSITY (RESCHEDULED FROM LAST YEAR) AND HELD ONE AND HALF HOUR SIT DOWN DEMONSTRATION IN STREET BEFORE RETURNING TO CAMPUS. STUDENTS PLEDGED SUPPORT FOR SIGNATURE DRIVE AND DEMANDED FREEDOM ON CAMPUS. PRESS ALSO REPORTS MEETING 50 SNU DENTAL STUDENTS WHO ISSUED STATEMENT PROMISING 100 PERCENT SUPPORT FOR CAMPAIGN.
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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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